

November 15, 2000

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U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20785
Docket # 98P-0151/CP1

FDA:

I would like to ask that the petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed farm animals be granted—the docket number is 98P-0151/CP1. There is absolutely no excuse for inflicting further suffering on animals that have been injured to the point of not even being able to stand up; moreover, allowing such animals to be processed for human consumption presents health risks to humans. Among the potential risks to people who might consume meat processed from these animals are bacterial contamination and “Mad Cow Disease,” which has been linked to fatalities in humans by causing Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

These animals cannot be moved, once they are down, without causing them even more stress and pain than their original injuries caused. At present, they are commonly pushed with tractors or dragged with chains, which is as cruel a treatment as one could imagine, causing bruises, broken bones, and untold trauma. Since only a small percentage of animals taken to slaughter are “downed,” refusing to allow them to be marketed as meat would impose no great financial hardship on their owners. By continuing to allow the marketing of these animals, the FDA actually encourages cruelty by giving those concerned an incentive to bring the animals to market, an incentive that would be removed if they were not permitted to be slaughtered for meat.

Certainly the argument for this petition is compelling, both from the standpoint of ensuring safety in the foods that are marketed to Americans and in terms of basic humane considerations. I hope that you will agree with me and grant the petition asking for the prohibition of downed farm animals. Thank you for your consideration.

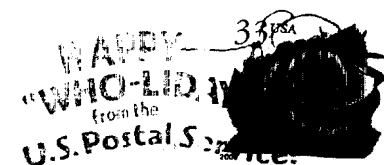
Sincerely,



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